

Application No. 09/243,016
Amendment Dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-13 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 5-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 13 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claim 13 is pending.

In telephone conversations with Examiner Ghali on November 15, 2004 and November 30, 2004, she indicated that she would allow claim 13 if it was amended to be recited in independent form and if applicants agreed to cancel claims 1, 3, and 5-12. In response, applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, and 5-12 and amended claim 13 which is now in independent form.

The amendments and remarks described herein are believed to overcome the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 5-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Accordingly, applicant request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Applicant notes with appreciation the suggested guideline for preferred layout of the specification. These guidelines are suggestions only, however, not mandatory, and applicant prefers to retain the original layout of the specification.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks it is believed that the claim is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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